

School Grounds Timeline

Standards Addressed

Environmental Education Standards:

- A. Questioning and Analysis: A.4.1, A.4.2, A.4.3, and A.4.4.
- B. Knowledge of Environmental Processes and Systems: B.4.5.
- C. Environmental Issue Investigation Skills: C.4.2.

Key Concepts/Content

- ✱ To understand the larger picture of the changes that occur in an ecosystem over time.

Teacher Background

Before beginning this program, you will need to research the past ecological history of the school grounds or area to be shown in the timeline. Students may be able to help with this by interviewing individuals familiar with the general school area. Information should also be gathered on people in Wisconsin history who have had an impact on the treatment of the land.

As your class works on this project, a glimpse back in time can be found at your local library or historical society. Many southern Wisconsin forests were cleared for agriculture by the late 1800's. Forests in the north were heavily cut for timber to build cities, towns, and railroads by the early 1900's. During the Depression, thousands of acres of pines were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps to replenish cut over lands. Today, Wisconsin has more forested land than anytime since 1936 when the first forest inventories were completed by scientists.

The Conservation Movement in this country is only 150 years old. It began with Thoreau and Marsh. The first school of forestry was the Biltmore School in North Carolina in 1898. The profession of forestry celebrates its 100th birthday in 1999. A great Wisconsin conservationist, Aldo Leopold, wrote *A Sand County Almanac*, just 50 years ago.

Today, we know a lot about forests and ecosystems and there is so much more to learn.

Please take a look at the Library of Congress for maps, photographs, and drawings about Wisconsin. The website is: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/finder.html>

Then select: List All Collections.

Of particular interest are:

- The Evolution of the Conservation Movement, 1850-1920
- Touring Turn of the Century America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company, 1880-1920
- American Environmental Photographs, 1891-1936: Images from the University of Chicago Library
- Panoramic Maps (search for Wisconsin – your town may be listed)
- Also look at maps of presettlement vegetation and current land cover in Wisconsin at the DNR website: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/et/go/map_gal/landcov/index.htm

Getting Ready

In small groups, have the students draw pictures of how they think their school grounds looked during recorded history.

Materials Needed

- ✿ Shoe boxes, paper, and other construction tools (depending upon presentation format selected)
- ✿ Guide to the Forestry Hall of Fame (see following pages)
- ✿ *Chronology of Firsts* pamphlet of Wisconsin forestry history (included with this packet)
- ✿ Photocopy of photos of the school grounds from the past or present

Procedures

1. Students should brainstorm about how they think their school grounds/forest looked in the recent as well as distant past (see Getting Ready).

2. As a class, develop a timeline showing the changes that most likely have occurred in the school grounds/forest over time.
3. Divide the class into groups and assign each group a time period for which to create a representation of the school grounds/forest.
4. The representations could be created as dioramas in shoeboxes, drawings on large sheets of paper, or individual slides in a computer slide show, or any other format you select.
5. When all of the representations are done, set them up so they can be viewed in order from earliest to current time. You might want to display your timeline in a hallway or display area in your school.
6. Ask each group to write a paragraph explaining what is found in its representation.
7. One group might even create a representation showing what the school grounds will look like in the future.
8. Other information could be included about Wisconsin history. Some examples are:
 - Important dates in Wisconsin and American history
 - Important dates in local history
 - Important dates in the school's or school district's history
 - Important dates of influential forestry or other resource individuals from Wisconsin

**Evidence of
Student
Understanding**

Develop a grading rubric that includes both the content learned as a result of this activity and the presentations given by the students. Use the rubric in a project post-conference to determine the final evaluation of the project. Some of the requirements for this project might be accuracy of the scenes depicted, neatness of work, and content of descriptions. Include an assessment of how students understand changes over time. This can be done through oral

class discussions, formal interviews, or by students discussing the concept with each other.

References/ Resources

- 📖 *Guide to the Forestry Hall of Fame* (see following pages).
- 📖 *Chronology of Firsts*, Wisconsin Forest History Association (included in this packet).

UW - STEVENS POINT

1995

William H. Brewer - develops the state's seed nursery program that produced 900,000 red pine seedlings in support of the state reforestation program

Walter Michael - director of state 4-H forestry and conservation activities for 40 years. Retired as "Ranger Mac"

1996

John W. Kuehn - researcher in forest practices, active in cooperative education and service on the Menominee Indian Study Committee

1997

Frank W. Plummer - industrial forester for the Menominee Paper Mill; active in the forestry of Wisconsin; served on boards, councils and committees

1998

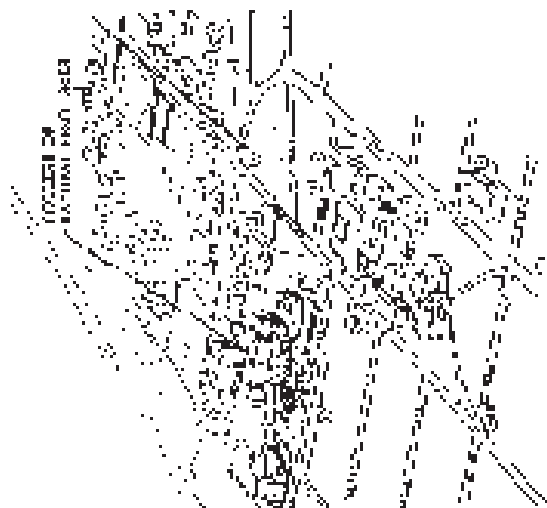
George W. Blanchard - State legislator representing Rock County from 1942-51, whose leadership in the passage of the major forestry legislation of the 20th century

1999

Frederic W. B. Hunt - established public aquarium, key to the recreation of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners' Association and state nursery, pre-1900's state nursery service organizations

John Leopold - a national recognized forester whose ideas and writings shaped conservation. His work has influenced forestry and wildlife management in the Wisconsin Dendroplex

For further information on the Forestry Hall of Fame, contact: **Deborah Peterson, Hall of Fame**, 1939 University Avenue, Suite 100, UW-Stevens Point, WI 54481



Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame



MEMBERS OF WISCONSIN FORESTRY HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

- Wisconsin Forestry Association
- Wisconsin Tree Farm Corporation
- Wisconsin Michigan Timber Producers
- Wisconsin Society of American Foresters
- DNR, Bureau of Forestry
- Wisconsin Woodland Owners' Association
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- U.S. Forest Service
- Wisconsin Woodland Owners' Association
- University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

To give special recognition to individuals, living or deceased, who have made significant contributions to the field of forestry in Wisconsin

